Curtailment in rail projects due to resource crunch

1784. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious resource crunch may force the Railways to cut some of the projects as reported in Statesman of the 6th November, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of the projects likely to suffer due to resource crunch;

(c) whether Railways on its own propose to generate funds for the projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) and (b) Railways do not propose to drop any project which have already been sanctioned, in view of the resource crunch.

(c) and (d) For the current year 1995-96, about 55% of the plan size is being financed through internal generation of resources.

Service conditions of Supreme Court and High Court judges

1785. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the service conditions of Supreme Court and High Court judges;

(b) if so, what are the proposals;

(c) whether Government have received suggestions in this regard; and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by what time a legislation will be brought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) Recently, improvements in the service conditions of the Supreme Court and High Court Judges have been made by providing the following liberalised benefits to them:

(1) *For Supreme Court Judges—*

(a) Reimbursement of medical expenses on prescriptions of Government doctors/hospitals or registered medical practioners/ private hospitals by the Registry of Supreme Court of India.

(b) The value of free furnishing at the residence increased from Rs. 1.25 lakhs to Rs. 2.5 lakhs for CJI and from Rs. 1 lakhs to Rs. 2 lakhs for Judges.

(c) Free water and electricity at the residence of Judges w.e.f. 1.4.1994.

(2) *For High Court Judges—*

(a) The value of free furnishing at the residence increased from Rs. 1 lakhs to Rs. 2 lakhs for CJ and from Rs. 70,000/- to Rs. 1.5 lakhs for other Judges.

(b) Additional (third) LTC for the Chief Justice and transferred Judges to visit home State in a year.

(c) Increase in compensatory (transfer) allowance to Rs. 2000/- p.m. or 10% of basic pay, which ever is more, against 10% of the basic pay admissible.

(d) Travel in train by the highest class including air-conditioned while joining office on elevation.

The question of improvement in certain allowances/facilities e.g. sumptuary allowance and conveyance facilities available to the Judges, which require to be made by undertaking amendments to the High Court Judges (C/S) Act, 1954